KARANAND): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Trials of long term contraceptive Norplant-1

685. SHRI N. GIRIPRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed the trials of the controversial long-term contraceptive Norplant-1 to be taken up by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 10 districts all over the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the protests by woman organisations against the trials of this contraceptive on Indian women?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research has initiated Phase III clinical trials with Norplant-1 at 10 Human Reproduction Research Centres (HRRCs) located in medical colleges.

(c) Representative of women's health advocates in the area are members of the Local Coordination Committees set up to review the progress of clinical trials being conducted on healthy female volunteers.

Use of Saccharine in pan masala

686. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to permit the use of saccharine in pan masala.

(b) if so, whether the use of saccharine in pan masala will enhance cancer inducing substances as per views of Government scientists;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to review its decision; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The Government have permitted the use of Saccharine in Pan Massla upto a maximum limit of 8000 p.p.m.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Strengthening of drugs and medicines quality control mechanism

687. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to strengthen the quality control mechanism in regard to drugs and medicines;

(b) if so, what are the details of such a proposal and by when it would be implemented; and

(c) whether it is a fact that marketing of spurious drugs have increased manifold, if so, what steps Government have taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a continuous process, which includes Good Manufacturing Practices as a statutory requirement, testing of raw materials and finished products. The Central Govt.